

NOTES

1. Papers selected for inclusion in General Sessions will be available at the Conference in the following official languages of the United Nations: English, French, Russian and Spanish.
2. Papers selected for inclusion in Specialized Sessions will be available at the Conference in only one of the above official languages.
3. Summaries of all papers, as submitted by contributors, will be available at the Conference in the following official languages of the United Nations: English, French, Russian and Spanish.
4. Papers and summaries will not be available for general distribution in advance of the Conference. They will be published in advance in limited quantities only for the use of delegations of participating governments and of other authorized participants. Post-Conference publication and general distribution of the Conference Proceedings will follow United Nations practices as laid down by the United Nations Publications Board.

THE ASSESSMENT OF LAND-USE POTENTIAL OF SOILS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE
TO TECHNIQUES APPLICABLE TO UNDER-DEVELOPED AREAS

No. 985
C.3.1

by

G. BLACKBURN

Division of Soils,
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization
Adelaide, Australia

S U M M A R Y

The scientific assessment of the land-use potential of soils is regarded as having four essential requirements: a soil classification system; data on soil characteristics; reference standards for the evaluation of the data; and a system for integrating the various soil values, making allowances for environmental conditions and land use. The paper mainly deals with considerations of these requirements and refers to some Australian experiences.

The first two requirements are more readily provided than the latter two. A major difficulty arises from the lack of adequate reference standards. Those from properly designed experiments are most valuable. Where this immediate experience is lacking particular attention has to be given to the differences in environmental conditions when relying on experience elsewhere as a basis for reference standards. Systems for integrating all evaluations of soil data for assessment and rating of land-use potential are not yet available, hence there must be reliance on relatively simple systems designed for the particular problems. Some examples of Australian experiences in assessment of land-use potential are tabulated.

It is concluded that attention to the four general requirements for land-use assessment should serve as a general basis for a programme of work. The various Australian experiences should be useful as examples of what may be done under various conditions, but the special Australian soil problems and environmental conditions somewhat restrict their value to other under-developed areas with relatively low but highly variable rainfall.

The changing value and approximate nature of the assessments are suggested as a reason why great encouragement to science and technology in under-developed areas should be given now, so that future assessments of the land-use potential of soils can be established more accurately than at present.

* Division of Soils, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Adelaide, Australia.

S - 1378 E - Nov.1962 - 1,600